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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
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# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Refuge Needs Pollinator Partners! – Sat. Sept. 24

Saturday, September 24, is the 23rd anniversary of National Public Lands Day, and the end of Take A Child Outside week. St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge welcomes you to celebrate by joining volunteers of all ages to help outdoors, sprucing up the refuge. All the pollinator gardens will be cleaned up and readied for butterfly season! Saturdays events begin at 9 am and wrap up by noon. A special lunch will be offered to volunteers at 1 pm in the Education Building. Here is a list of activities:

9 am Meet at the milkweed nursery at 7300 Coastal Hwy to plant milkweed seeds and transplant larger milkweeds. Call 850-925-6122 to register. Dress to work outside and bring gloves, bug repellent .

9 am Meet at the Nature's Classroom (1255 Lighthouse Rd.) area to clean up the gardens around the building and remove hurricane debris around the buildings and Nature Trails. Bring wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, gloves, dress for outside, bug repellent. Call 850-925-6122 to register.

9 am Meet at the Pollinator Gardens at Picnic Pond (5 miles south of the Visitor Center on Lighthouse Rd./Co. Rd. 59). Bring gloves, wear clothes for outside, hat, bug repellent. Small shovels helpful. Call 850-925-6122 to register.

Remember, all national public lands offer free entry for National Public Lands Day. Come ride down Lighthouse Rd. and see the amazing wildflowers and butterflies!

Pre-registering helps the refuge plan for the luncheon. Thank you! For additional information, contact refuge staff at 850/925-6122.

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*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws,*

*administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies. For more information about the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, visit the homepage at <http://www.fws.gov>*